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RESPONSE

A Report on Actions for A Better Environment

NO. 13

APRIL 1972

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • OFFICE OF INFORMATION • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

RESPONSE is a periodic report from the United States Department of Agriculture on USDA's many areas of action to remedy environmental problems. Department programs protect and improve the environment through research, forestry, conservation and a wide range of rural and community services.

WATER BANK

Twelve States will participate in the Water Bank Program (which was initiated last fall) to preserve waterfowl habitat in areas where it is rapidly disappearing. Participating farmers are compensated for maintaining wetlands and for providing needed additional habitat for nesting and breeding places for migratory waterfowl. The initial program will concentrate on the northern part of the central and Mississippi waterfowl flyways (north-south migratory routes) with a limited number of counties in other areas. States with counties in the program are: North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana, Wisconsin, California, Nebraska, Louisiana, Maine, Oregon, Mississippi, and Washington. Agreements signed under the 1972 program run for 10 years and will cost \$10 million. ASCS-SCS

EISENHOWER CONSORTIUM

Forest Service and nine Western educational institutions are combining their resources in a program called the Eisenhower Consortium for Western Environmental Forestry Research. The purpose. . .to solve environmental problems. Research will include development of methods for monitoring and controlling changes in environmental characteristics of forests and related lands that occur as a result of man's activities. Cooperating with Forest Services's Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station at Fort Collins, Colorado, are Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff, Arizona State University at Tempe, University of Arizona at Tucson, Colorado State University at Fort Collins, University of Colorado at Boulder, New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, Texas Tech University at Lubbock, and University of Wyoming at Laramie. A similar program is established in the eastern United States at the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and is designated the Pinchot Institute of Environmental Forestry Research.

FIRE
SYMPOSIUM

Delegates from three countries will meet in Denver, Colorado, May 2-4 for a symposium on "Fire in the Environment." Topics to be covered include: "History of Fire in North America," "Fire and the Forest Ecosystem," "Man and the Forest Ecosystem," "Public Attitudes Towards Fire and the Shaping of Policy," "Alternatives to Conflagration," "Fire Control Technology and Cooperation for Environmental Protection," and "New Technological Opportunities for Fire in the Environment." For details contact the symposium chairman: W.R. Tikkala, Forest Service, 1621 North Kent, 906-C, Rosslyn, Virginia 22209.

NEW FOREST
RESEARCH
FACILITY

A new Forestry Sciences Laboratory, to be located in Durham, New Hampshire, will expand and intensify research on problems of the New Hampshire and New England forest environment. A facility of the Forest Service Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, it will occupy an 8-acre tract on the University of New Hampshire campus.

HERBICIDE
RESIDUES IN
THE SOUTH

If agricultural herbicides are applied at recommended rates, no serious residues remain after one year under the humid weather conditions of the South, according to Southern Cooperative Series Bulletin 167. It presents a resume of findings concerning the effect of herbicides on the environment of the South, Midsouth and Southwest. Copies may be obtained free from the Bulletin Office, University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.

PESTICIDES IN
SOILS STUDIES

Studies on the distribution and persistence of pesticides in soils will be conducted by Israeli scientists under a (\$86,000 equivalent) USDA grant. The studies will focus on what happens to pesticide residues in dry soils and what impact lack of rain and high temperatures have on residue accumulations. The scientists also will determine the influence of irrigation water management on the distribution and persistence of pesticides in the soil. ARS

COMPOSTING
SWINE WASTES

A \$15,000 grant is being made to the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at New Brunswick to conduct an 18-month study to improve methods for composting swine wastes by combining them with solids from municipal refuse. The municipal wastes are expected to make the swine waste more permeable as well as furnish a carbon source for bacteria to act on and almost eliminate odor problems. ARS

ENVIRONMENT IS
THEME FOR L&G WEEK

Lawn and Garden Week (March 20-26) was started four years ago by USDA, garden clubs, other civic organizations and cooperating industry groups. This year's theme was "Environmental Thrust" tying the observance to the Department's Environmental Thrust program, an effort to provide citizens with help in initiating and carrying out community-wide activities to improve their local environment.

TREATED WASTES
ON FOREST AND
CROP LAND

A symposium on recycling treated municipal wastewater and sludge through forest and cropland will be held at the Pennsylvania State University August 21-24. Sponsors are the Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources and the College of Agriculture in cooperation with The Pinchot Institute for Environmental Forestry Research, Forest Service, and the Office of Research and Monitoring of the Environmental Protection Agency. Contact Dr. William E. Sopper or Dr. Louis T. Kardos, Institute for Research on Land and Water Resources, Research Building A, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802, for details.

ON BEHALF OF
THE BALD EAGLE

Almost 11,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska has been designated as a management unit for the American bald eagle. The first of its kind in Alaska, it encompasses part of the Seymour Canal of Admiralty Island and several smaller islands, forming a 17-mile long, 5-mile wide corridor. The management unit will study the bald eagle under optimum natural conditions and provide new research on feeding habits, causes of mortality, and routes of migration. Southeastern Alaska has the greatest concentration of bald eagles in North America, with the Seymour Canal Islands containing the most densely grouped nesting area. FS

WILDLIFE FOR
TOMORROW

American wildlife ranging from rare and endangered species to small game animals are the subjects of a new Forest Service publication, "Wildlife for Tomorrow." The full color 30-page, catalog-style booklet provides excellent pictures of all the major wildlife on the North American continent. It reviews the early years of wildlife abundance, legislation protecting wildlife, wildlife in recreation, wildlife management, and sections on the various classifications of wildlife which include a listing of endangered and rare wildlife and fish species currently living on or near Forest Service administered lands. The book is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for 60 cents. Ask for Forest Service PA-989.

BEST FIRE LAB
IN WORLD

An addition will be made to the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station's Southern Forest Fire Laboratory in Macon, Georgia which will make it the most modern laboratory of its kind in the world. It will provide facilities for development of control techniques to combat catastrophic "blowup" fires in the South. The facility will make research possible to improve use of fire as a tool of forest management, to develop smoke management guidelines and to determine methods of forest debris disposal with the least environmental impacts.

REAP

The Rural Environmental Assistance Program, successor to the Agricultural Conservation Program in 1970, offers incentive cost-sharing assistance to farmers who install enduring conservation practices for control of erosion, the prevention of siltation, the prevention and abatement of livestock waste pollution, and the prevention of pesticide residues and other agricultural chemicals from polluting the environment. A flyer, describing the program, "Rebuilding A Quality Environment Through Rural Environmental Assistance Program," is available upon request to the Editor of RESPONSE.

U. S. PROTECTS
WILD HORSES
AND BURROS

A notice in the Federal Register this month reminded the public that Congress has passed and the President has signed an Act which places free-roaming wild horses and burros under the jurisdiction of the USDA and U. S. Department of Interior. Although the two departments have not yet published detailed regulations, the law is now in effect and violators are subject to its penalties. Details available upon request to RESPONSE.

OCEAN RESOURCES

The hardcover 534-page book "Our Changing Fisheries" produced by the U. S. Department of Commerce is now available for purchase (\$8.00) from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402. It is a current assessment of the ocean as a producer of food, namely fish and shellfish.

SLIDE SETS &
FILM STRIPS

The following are not new releases but are still timely and of interest to conservationists. . . .
AGRICULTURE AND THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT (No. C-168. Released 1970. 78 frames. Slide set \$17.50. Filmstrip \$8.50. Taped narration \$1.50) describes early devastations of this country's environment and conservation measures taken to correct them. The presentations also illustrates attacks on the same environment today and tells what we are doing--and what else we should do--to correct the situation.
KNOW YOUR LAND (No. C-8. Revised 1968. 50 frames. Slide set \$13.00. Filmstrip \$5.50) shows a practical land classification method that will indicate the best land use and treatment for the various areas of a farm. TO SAVE OUR LAND (No. C-141. Released 1967. 48 frames. Slide set \$13.00. Filmstrip \$5.50) covers briefly the work of the Soil Conservation Service from its establishment up through modern times.
WASHOUT (No. C-160. Release 1969. 50 frames. Slide set \$13.00. Filmstrip \$5.50) examines the problem of urban erosion and resulting pollution of the streams and rivers and suggests some methods of controlling it. Copies of slide sets can be purchase from Photography Division, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Copies of the filmstrips can be purchased from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Ave., N. W., Washington, D.C. 20011.